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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts fo publication wish to have rejected articles returned the must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Destructive Futility.

The Public Service Commission must be a source of grievous concern to Governor Hughes. It is impossible for thoughtful and conservative people to imagine for one moment that the commission even remotely resembles the commission planned and contemplated by him. The great and substantial reputation which Governor HUGHES won by his veto of the two cent fare bill was a grateful assurance that his own measure for the regulation of the public service orporations would prove both wise and effective. In common with the general public we had persuaded ourselves that it would restrict the abuses and injustices of which the community had so much cause to complain and afford some practical relief. We looked for a corrective and constructive commission, and we have received a punitive and destructive commission. Not a single beneficent or useful accomplishment has marked its career. It has revealed itself simply and undisguisedly as a political machine operated under extreme pressure and without scruple or affectation of decency for base and selfish personal

It is inconceivable that Governor HUGHES, as we know him, should have intended his Public Service Commission for shifty and unsavory politicians for their own personal exploitation. We do not know which has enjoyed the greater discredit from its operation, its blatant and unscrupulous counsel or its ambitious and ineffectual chairman. We only know that in the history of civic bodies none other has in its lifetime achieved a greater futility or a better established disrepute.

There is no community in existence that has a more urgent need for the expansion and development of its transportation system than New York. Neither is there any community in which the prospect of improvement and relief is more discouraging or more hopeless. That, so far, is the net and practical result of the operation of Governor HUGHES'S perverted Public Service Commission. All development, growth or improvement of urban and suburban transportation is completely paralyzed. Not an extension is possible. even a minor or local betterment. Not a dollar can be obtained anywhere for any purpose connected with our system. while relief from municipal sources is an impossibility for years to come, if again in this generation. Shall we be asked to believe that this result is what the Governor contemplated and planned when he framed and passed his public utilities act? We think not.

The most inviting field in the world for capital has been made the most forbidding, if not the most prohibitive. A score or more of intelligent and attractive projects presented themselves for consideration and in the natural course of events all would have attained fruition to the advantage of the whole community. Now they have not even an existence; they are dead beyond resuscitation. The whole system of transportation is choked and asphyxiated and the public is invited to endure it without a prospeet of relief. For its distraction, on the other hand, and for its general edification the commission has emptied a collection of old political cesspools, the ineffable decay of whose contents cries to an offended heaven, while planted on the mass are two unsterilized candidates for high office!

Is it true that Governor HUGHES, disgusted with this intolerable miscarriage of a well meant measure, conceived in the public interest and for the general welfare, contemplates inviting its reconsideration and amendment at the hands of the next Legislature?

The Wrinkling of a Boom.

Through the medium of his organs at Washington and elsewhere the President Is making it sufficiently plain that he is for his plan was carried out. There is no TAFT if everybody else is, but that meanwhile he doesn't intend to have irresponsible visitors pledging him to irrevocable renunciations. The kitchen cabinet buletin which appeared last Saturday was in its way almost as garrulous and gampish as the message itself, and of course it disclosed the usual pitfalls for LOEB in the event of an unfavorable impression administration was to be exercised by England and other places awaiting their on the public mind, but the observant reader could see clearly enough that TAFT is expected to help himself from this time on and that his great and good friend has no sort of idea of becoming identified with a punctured and exhausted boom.

We derive the distinct impression, in fact, that Mr. ROOSEVELT will do nothing to prevent TAFT's success if that success be established and inevitable, in which case he will accept it as a purely personal victory and a tribute to the virtue of "my policies." On the other hand, if it tag amended the draft of the Federal should turn out that TAFT's chances organic law by providing that the acts have not survived the forces of disas- of the President (now the Emperor) ter so ingeniously applied to their ex- should be countersigned by the Chantinction he and his supporters-if he cellor, who thereby assumed responsireally has any-need look to the Throne | bility for them. The Chancellor was in for no help or even consolation. That this way made a Federal officer responemergency will divest the President of sible to the nation. The principle of

or embarrassment. It will then become necessary to uphold the Rough Riders in office, the ecstatic band of appointees throughout the country, the labor leaders, the whole army of grateful expectants, the innumerable thousands who to the trough.

We are told that the President does not want the nomination, that he would much rather abdicate the autocracy in 6 00 favor of some one who can be depended 2 00 on to follow faithfully in his devastating German Empire and the Chancellor has 8 99 footsteps. Then, after four years of an not considered himself forced to resign inferior calamity, he could return to But he must be a very careless student of the signs and portents of the hour who fails to perceive indications of a beneficiaries.

Questions of Naval Construction.

Some recent suggestions by The Sun with reference to our methods of naval construction have already brought us a great deal of comment, approving and otherwise. The subject is one which profoundly interests all thoughtful persons. It touches a vital spot in our national organization. Any disquieting hint in connection with it must therefore arouse solicitude and provoke discussion Nothing could be more natural.

In advance of the threatened control versy, however, and by way of forestalling hasty and ill founded assumptions we venture to submit a few explanatory observations. It was no part of our purpose to disparage or even to criticise the construction bureau of the navy. The head of that bureau, Mr. W. L. CAPPS, is everywhere known as a most competent and accomplished officer. Our proposition was not that Chief Constructor CAPPS had fallen short in any professional respect. What we tried to say was that he was not properly advised in his work under the existing system. It is all very well to declare that the line officers have an opportunity to take part in the formulation of plans. Theoretically such is the incontestable truth. But as a matter of fact line officers do not really exert any perceptible influence in the premises. and this for the very convincing reason that the line members of the present board under the present arrangement are qualified as such merely by the accident of their incumbency as heads of bureaus and not because of any demonstrated fitness in that particular respect.

For example, the chiefs of the bureaus of ordnance, equipment or anything else may be ideal officers-and indeed they usually are so far as concerns their special and immediate duties-but it does not follow, even at a discreet distance, that they know much about the interior adjustments of fighting ships, and it is quite certain that even if they did, overwhelming responsibilities in connection with their bureaus would leave them no time for other work.

As we have already said, the navy needs an advisory board of construction made up of line officers who are experts of approved and demonstrated qualifications. These should have no other responsibilities whatsoever and their dictum should be final. The officers of the construction corps are almost always equal if not more than equal to their proper task.

Our suggestion is, however, that the experience of the past demands in their behalf as well as in that of the nation a direction and a guidance which even the most inspired shipbuilder must inevitably

Has the German Constitution Been Changed Fundamentally?

The cavity of the incident that took place the other day in the Reichstag is beginning to be appreciated at Berlin and throughout Germany. The Chancellor's policy having been attacked by a National Liberal, Dr. PAASCHE, the first Vice-President of the Chamber, Prince von Bülow, intimated to the leaders of the National Liberal-Conservative-Radical coalition, which dominates the House, that unless he could rely on their assistance he must either resign or recommend a dissolution of Parliament. Thereupon those leaders after conference announced in the Reichstag that they would continue to support the Government. On the face of things the incident was thus closed, but upon reflection it was perceived that a principle hitherto unrecognized in the German Constitution, Ministerial accountability to the people's representatives, had prac-

tically been established. That such a constitutional change has occurred will be patent if we recall the failure of previous attempts to introduce the principle of Ministerial account-The subject will be found reviewed at length by Professor A. A. LOWELL in his "Government and Parties in Continental Europe." When the organic law of the North German Confederation, out of which grew the Empire, was framed BISMARCK would not hear of a Federal Cabinet. This part of Imperial Cabinet to-day and the only has subordinates or spokesmen but no colleagues. Another feature of Bis-MARCK's scheme had to be modified. Federal Minister at all. The general on the qui vive of expectancy regarding supervision and control of the Empire's the Bundesrath, while military and foreign affairs which from their nature must be entrusted to a single man were to be conducted by the King of Prussia as President of the Confederation. The Chancellor was to be purely a Prussian officer who should receive his instructions from the King and be responsible

to him alone. The Liberals, who were at the time far more powerful than they now are, objected to this project and under the lead of BENNIGSEN the constituent Reichs-

have been inserted in the Constitution. Hitherto it has remained unfruitful, however, for the Chancellor is not responsible criminally and BISMARCK refused to hold himself politically responsible to any one but the monarch. recognize in "my policies" their sole title. He always insisted that the motto 'The King reigns but does not govern" had no application to the House of Hohenzollern. In other words, up to the third day of the present month the parliamentary system has not existed in the in consequence of a hostile vote in the a completion of his interrupted work. Reichstag. Now, on the other hand, Prince von Bülow has distinctly conveyed to the leaders of the coalition preponderant in the Reichstag his depurpose on the part of the President to termination to resign in the event of a leave himself open to the passion of his withdrawal of their support. He would have, to be sure, the alternative of dissolving Parliament, but as he employed this manœuvre a year ago he would scarcely venture to repeat it so soon.

The practical establishment in the Reichstag of Ministerial responsibility to the people's representatives will tend powerfully to bring about an acknowledgment of the same principle in the Prussian Chamber of Deputies. The Prussian Constitution declares that all the King's acts must be countersigned by a Minister, who thereby becomes responsible for them. As a matter of fact, however, the Prussian Ministers are responsible only to the King himself, for they do not resign on an adverse vote. In practice, therefore, they are the servants not of the Parliament but of the Crown. They are not subject, indeed, to effective control of any kind on the part of the Legislature, for although the Prussian Constitution provides that they can be prosecuted for bribery, treason or violation of the Constitution, upon a resolution passed by either House, there s no statute prescribing any penalty and hence the provision is a dead letter. What BISMARCK had to fear when as Prime Minister in the early '60s he violated the Constitution by levying taxes not sanctioned by the Chamber of Deputies was that a statute would be passed to meet his case, after which had Prussia been beaten at Sadowa he might have lost his head.

The precedent made by Prince von BULOW by threatening to resign unless supported by a majority of the Reichstag is likely to have far reaching consequences. It must have been deliberately sanctioned by the Emperor before his departure for England.

The Great Mosher Estate.

Not for some time have we heard of those vast English estates which are always "awaiting American heirs," and the incomes of which, invested with more than mortal sagacity by the bigwigs of chancery, can almost be heard growing in the Bank of England. The main purpose of the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street is to be a convenience to these fortunate Yankee inheritors. Divers lawvers have had free trips to Europe on the strength of these great expectations. whose effect upon the cultivation of the comantic temperament may be acknowledged thankfully. There is much stale talk about "the decay of poetry." Yet every year somebody is searching for the cache of that marine malefactor of great wealth who says-erroneously as to his prænomen-in the ballad:

As I sailed. My name was ROBERT KIDD And much evil deeds I did.

As I sailed." And every year fanciful Americans are trying to get livery of seizin of their castles in Great Britain. And now Maine, a region of the hard headed and the prudent, shows itself rich in poetry. A special despatch from Oakland on the Kennebec to the Kennebec Journal of Augusta is bright with the glitter of the rainbow pot of gold:

"The helrs of the Hugh Mosher estate said to be one of the largest ever in chancery in England, held a meeting Saturday afternoon in Memorial Hall to talk over the proposition of send ing a representative to England to attend to mat ters pertaining to the estate involved. Nearly 100 heirs were present from different parts of Maine. a good sized delegation coming from Augusta."

Two treasurers were appointed, though only \$30 has been collected so far. An English attorney is to be employed to find if the Mosher estate exists in cash. If so, representatives of the heirs will go to England to collect. Why this "if" There speaks the Dirigo habit of understatement. For it is clear from the despatch that the money is over there. HUGH MOSHER came from England in the seventeenth century, went back, 'amassed an immense fortune, both in cash and real estate. This fortune is said to amount to £30,000,000 sterling. A conservative estimate. It is twice that if it is a penny; and we can't understand why the heirs didn't unite some thirty years ago when it was proposed to the Mosher descendants to take possession of their property. They don't expect to get the real estate. The Government of perfidious Albion has undoubtedly cabbaged that; and more's the pity, for we hear of "streets in Manchester, where Federal Minister is the Chancellor, who the most of the estate is located, lined with silk factories and brass foundries belonging to the estate." But where there is so much real there must be plenty Originally he intended to have no of personal; and naturally the heirs "are the fortune that was said to exist in disposal."

Other places, mark that. "There is quite a fortune in Salem, Mass., to be divided among these heirs. Another story tells of real estate in the vicinity of the Hotel Astor, New York, which is also a portion of the estate." So there are many strings to the Mosher bow. EPH-RAIM and ELISHA, PERSIS and PEGGIE and SOPHRINA, by such good names does the Mosher Maine descent descend One heir has heard this story from his grandmother, which we reccommend to any Hoosier novelist to whom these pres-

ents may come: " She could just remember a very old man com ing to this country from England, who was dressed in the greatest elegance and who she always supposed was the head of the estate. That was over

a century ago." We would remind the heirs not to

the last remaining vestige of obligation Ministerial accountability seemed thus to omit France from their search. The WHY SHOULD ANY CABINET OFFI- A CENTRAL AMERICAN COURT. name "Mosher" is derived from "Monsieur," the title of the French King's second son under the old régime. We have little doubt that some of the famous châteaux would belong to the Mosher heirs if every man came to his own. Meanwhile it is pleasant to see the spirit of poetry surviving in Longfellow's

At Freeport the other night Colonel James HAMILTON LEWIS, Colonel BRYAN with him, launched his boom" for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Illinois. "We are two curios," said the Pink Aurora facetiously. Like his great friend and idol in Washington, JIM HAM shudders at "Federal judicial despotism" and cries to the reverberant heavens:

The time has come when the true democratic spirit of the people should demand a reformation of the un-American Federal Judge or the abannment of the system. We demand the power to curb the Judges. The

the State Judges, by a vote of the people, whose ervants they are." But popular election of Federal Judges is part of Colonel BRYAN's platform. Colonel LEWIS should amend so as to read: Three curios."

Mr. Roosevelt's proposal of Federal campaign funds is the latest Jeffersonian principle approved with heart, soul and tongue by that arch foe of "centralization" the Jefferson of Nebraska.

So far as the length of the Presidential campaign is concerned it would not matter if both the national conventions were held in June; the country would refuse to get excited about the issues or take much notice of the candidates until the hot weather had passed.

It is a little early yet to speak of this Congress as a "do nothing Congress."

The name of the native chief. DINISULU. who is stirring up revolt against the British in the Orange River Colony recalls KIP-LING's intractable, red haired Hillsman whose family devotions included the chanting of a Eurasian version of "The Wearing of the Green." The Natal chief's name needs only an auto-suggested suffix to establish a hereditary cause of his anti-British activities: DINISULUVAN.

A pretty baking was represented by tha cargo of 421,000 bushels of wheat carried from Superior to Buffalo in the hold of one lake steamer. It weighed about 25,260,000 pounds and will mill into 18,945,000 pounds of flour convertible into more than 20,000,000 pound loaves of bread-three loaves a day for each man in Admiral Evaus's fleet during the whole cruise if it does not last more than a year and a half. Assuming that the wheat was harvested from lands which give an average yield, the crops from 33,680 acres were poured into the ship at Superior and dipped out at Buffalo. It took 12,000 farm wagon loads to carry the wheat to the railway stations and 300 cars of forty ton capacity were hauled to Superior to make that one cargo.

RIDE OR GET OUT. Protest Against the President's Treatment

of Veteran Officers. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCN-Sir: Is there sovereign in Europe who would treat old and faithful officers and servants as the President treats the senior officers of the army? The army is short of officers. Why -eduthe number we have by kicking out a score more of them on the pretext that they are acapable of enduring the unnecessary hardnip of riding a hard gaited trotting horse such a horse as they would not have to ride an actual military campaign? Every officer who could ride would insist on going to the

ront in time of war. Even then the more or ess aged and impaired could and would do General Scott, as Commander in Chief of ir army, was incapable for many years of satisfying such a test as the President insists Does not the devotion of a lifetime

entitle officers to some consideration? OLD SOLDIER.

LOWELL, Mass., December 9.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In one of the "Persian Letters" Montesquieu says The other day I was at a gathering where saw a very amusing man. In a quarter of an hour he decided three questions in morals, four historical problems and five points physics. I have never seen such a universal

This seems to be additional evidence that the reincarnationists are right. NEW YORK, December 10. F. DWIGHT.

Mottoes. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Just sixty

years ago Florida adopted as its State motto God is our trust." The original motto had een, "Let us alone," If we are going to go back at all on our profession of faith hadn't we better go all the way back?

NEW YORK, December 10.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Th grinning car of Juggernaut has passed and eft its trail of blood behind, but we may at least be thankful that it has passed.

Gratitude of a Survivor

ONE OF THE MAINED. NEW YORK, December 9.

Strange Tale of the Park Squirrels From the Gazette Record of Troy, Pa. A good many years ago a couple of Troy boys n school in New York struck up a trade in squirrels with the park authorities. The base of supply was a hickory grove on a picturesque knob Clark Jaroleman farm up the Porter road. The connecting link was an enterprising youth or youths here at home who caught and delivered the squir rels to the boarding school boys at fifty cents a pair. At the other end of the route the squirrel

Where the Marriage Fees Go.

mmanded a dollar each, possibly more.

was money in it, and thus was the foundation laid

for the present day colony of squirrels in Central

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In a piece reprint you used yesterday a Boston lawyer was represented as saying that he had never founelergyman who kept an account of the marriage ees collected by him. All well regulated and prop erly disciplined clergymen who are married ther selves give their wedding fees to their wives, they being entitled to them by immemorial custom. Unmarried clergymen ought to set them aside in a fund for the benefit of a possible future Mrs. dergyman NEW YORK, December 10.

The Bald Lead the Bald. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: One of you rrespondents on baldness advises us to con tor. My doctor is as baid as a hickory aut.

NEW YORK, December 10. QUEFRRAIJE. The Way They Work It. When the little Podunk doctor Finds his répertoire of pills Proves entirely unavailing To relieve your aches and ills With some big gun in the town, So the city doctor gets you

When the country man falls down. When the mighty city doctor Finds his potions and his drugs Do not cure your aching body Of bacilli and of bugs To upbuild your system slumped So the country doctor gets you

When the city man is stumpe MCLANDSURGE WILSON CER RESIGN?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The inquiry suggested rather than started by your correspondent "Pinckney" relative to the responsibility of chiefs of departments for President Roosevelt's predatory recommendations to Congress is interesting in an academic sense rather than useful in the existing peril. Voters are now shuddering in fear of the possibility, even the probability, that next November they may be compelled to vote either for Roosevelt or Bryan for President, or not vote at all.

The word Cabinet is, contrary to popular belief, not in the Constitution. "Heads of departments" and "principal officer in each of the executive departments" are the decriptive phrases used.

Whether it was intended that those principal executive officers should bear the relation to the President they now do may be in doubt. Many commentators think that, although not having the tenure of judicial officers, they were not to go in and out with medy lies in the choosing of Federal Judges as each President. Historians say that in the earlier practice under the Constitution they were permanent officials. William Wirt's biographer wrote that Wirt, having been Attorney-General under Monroe and Adams, asked the former, when Jackson became President, whether he should be expected to tender his resignation, and Monroe replied that while heads of departments have not been generally looked upon as the mere appendages" of the President they are his 'counsellors" and should not remain in office

without the President's sanction. And yet if heads of departments are thus dependent, why did the Constitution go out of its way formally to empower the President to "require the opinion in writing" of each one? Did the Constitution intend any 'Privy Council" for the President other than the Senate, whose functions, in an English sense, we are told that Washington tried under Hamilton's advice, but abandoned for the existing formal and distant intercourse in writing regarding treaties and

nominations for confirmation? The gamester's, cowboy, aleatory method or White House selection of nominees to the Senate had not then come to pass.

On the one hand the duties of heads of departments, subject to the single constitutional exception referred to, are prescribed and fixed by Congress. In some cases, as s true of the Secretaries of State and of War, each is to conduct his department in such manner as the President shall order. The head of the Treasury is by Congress kept more closely in its hands, but in general the early splice between Congress and the departments begun by Hamilton could not endure the coming party violence, and so under the specious pretext of taking care of a faithful execution of the laws the relation between the President and chiefs of departments became that of master and ervant. As between one another the tendency now seems to be to discountenance

solidarity of interest. Mr. Root may well enough think and say that he is to take care of only his own department as the President shall command and is not to pother and be unhappy over corporations, or currency, or banks, or "malefactors of great wealth." That which the heads of the Treasury, Justice, Commerce and Labor are content that the President shall say of them to Congress does not concern the head of foreign affairs.

Moreover, if any of the heads of departments did think recommendations in the President's message intolerable and enough to break up an Administration, by their resignations, how could either Mr. Root or Mr. Cortelyou control or be held responsible for the speeches of either Roosevelt or his understudy. Taft, when swinging around a domestic or foreign circle?

If the Attorney-General can put up with the President's wild and pestilent vagaries, which he holds in common with Bryan, and is willing to say to the Supreme Court, as a member of its bar, that he has espoused them and seriously believes in them, why ld any of his colleagues resign?

There are a good many nice questions of morals and patriotism involved in a decision by a prominent head of a department, such as was Mr. Webster in Tyler's Government. to break up an Administration by retiring when the conduct of the President threatens

the public welfare. Even if Mr. Root foresaw a war with Japan if the President could not otherwise nominate and elect to be President either himself or some one subservient to himself and 'my policies," the Minister of Foreign Affairs might well enough deem it his duty. the sense of honest patriotism, to stand by the ship till actually dismissed.

In the tactics to control State delegates to the Republican conventions a purpose of the Attorney-General to postpone till after the office holders and office seekers have got in their best work, and used all the other resources of party sustenance, a presentation and argument of cases covering "my policies" now on the docket of the Supreme Court, or on the way there, may be most helpful to the Administration.

HARVARD. TAUNTON, Mass., December 10.

Austria's Cabinet of Thirteen.

Vienna correspondence Pall Mall Gazette. With the reconstruction of the book Ministry Austria has now the most democratic Cabinet to the class of peasant farmers, a remarkable thing in a Cabinet which not long ago was formed ex-clusively of members of the high aristocracy. One of the two, Peschka, a German, was educated in a middle grade agricultural school, and served Praschek, a Czech, attended only the elementary schools, and served three years in the army, like

of this kind have risen to be Cabinet Ministers The remaining eleven members belong to vary-ing classes—one is a General, four are high Government officials, two are university profe in a lawyer, two are professional politicians of the middle class, and the last belongs to the Polish aristocracy. In all they number thirteen, an omition is so rife as in Austria. Nevertheless this Cabinet will probably-last until the Ausgleich has eceived the sanction of Parliament, to wh ndeed, the Ministerial changes were made.

any son of the people. As one Vienna journal remarks, it is only in Norway that real peasants

Population of Oklahoma.

Although not ordered until June 20, 1907, the census of the population of Oklahoma and Indian Territory was completed and the results reported October 1. As of date July 1, 1907, the population of the two territories, now the State of Oklahoma In 1900 the population was 790,391 and in 1890 it was only 258,657.

As reported for July 1, 1907, the population was distributed: Oklahoma, 733,062: Indian Territory 681,115. The new State has 732,402 males, 661,775 1,226,930 whites, 112,160 negroes 69 Mongollans and 6 Japanese. males 379,568 are 21 years of age or over. Of the ales 298,631 are 21 years of age or over Of the larger cities the population figures are:

City.
Oklahoma City.
Muscogee
Guthrie
Shawnee
Enid

Transferring Alfalfa Soil.

From the Washington Post.
"The latest wrinkle in Kansas real estate trans fers," said Representative William Reeder of the Sixth district of Kansas, "Is the purchase of top soil from alfalfa fields in north central Kan

spipped by the carload to farms along the Missour River, where it is difficult to get this excellent forage plant started. Like all leguminous plants, alfalfa fertilizes the soil, and in the Kaw Valley an old alfalfa field is expected to yield seventy bushels of corn to the acre. Bailey Wagoner, a lawyer of Atchison, recently shipped a carload of top soil from Cloud county to his farm in Atchison county."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.-If then resent plans and purposes of the Central American egates now assembled in this capital carried into full effect the conference will have accomplished far more than was expected or even hoped by the most sanguine observers. The plan for a permanent high court of arbitration goes beyond the original

intention of the meeting. Joint high commissions and in courts of arbitration in which differences are adjusted and settled by reference representatives of disinterested Powers at not new in international experience. permanent court proposed by the Central

Americans is a novelty. Each of the countries is to appoint a judge who will serve for a term of years. Before this court there will come all questions in dispute and not otherwise determinable, and by its decisions all will agree to abide. The obvious difficulty is a means by which acceptance and obedience can be enforced in a case in which one of the parties in a controversy is inclined to repudiate the agreement because of dissatisfaction with the verdict and to withdraw from the compact. We believe that ways will be found in which compulsion can be made effective without resort to armed conflict.

With due allowance for the difference between a group of sovereign States organized as a nation and a group of sovereign nations, a parallel for the proposed institution is found in that provision of our own Constitution which declares that the judicial power shall extend "to controversies between two or more States; between a State and citizens of another State; [and] between citizens of different States." The Central Americans approach this along a somewhat different line, but the cases are not widely dissimilar. Lacking such a constitutional provision for the adjudication of interstate differences and disputes, the fate of the United States becomes a matter of speculation. If by treaty agreement the Central American States shall establish a similar condition and provide means for its enforcement, it becomes possible to hope and even to believe that the disturbances of that region are at an

If this court can be established, its power recognized and its findings accepted it become the foundation stone for the unification of the five republics. Presidents come and go, ruling wisely or foolishly; but the judiciary, although changing its personnel, is an abiding institution which, if it secures public confidence, makes even Presidential freaks only incidents in a nation's life. The legal systems of those countries are in the main excellent, but their administration is too frequently deplorable. If there can now be established an international court of unquestionable integrity, Central America will bid fair to become a new land, a land of peace and overflowing prosperity.

THROUGH MAGELLAN STRAIT. Was H. M. S. Fisgard the First Warship to Make the Passage?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In a few weeks our magnificent war fleet will leave the Atlantic for the Pacific, passing on its way through the Strait of Magellan. It may be of interest to your readers to know that as long ago as 1843 a British man-of-war navigated the strait from the Pacific to the Atlantic on a voyage from Valparaiso to Montevideo. The vessel was H. M. S. Fisgard, 1,069 tons, forty-two guns, commanded by Captain, afterward Admiral, John A. Duntze, R. N. The British Admiralty records show

R. N. The British Admiralty records show that the frigate entered the Straits on the afternoon of October 14, 1843, and passed out on the afternoon of the 30th.

The Fisgard was, I believe, the first war vessel that ever went through the strait. The trip in those days of sailing vessels was considered hazardous in the extreme, but the information obtained warranted the venture. A coast line about which little or nothing was known was partly surveyed and reliable known was partly surveyed and reliable nautical data were furnished to the world for the first time.

NEW YORK, December 10.

From the Young Men's Christian Associa-TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Several

statements that have appeared in the public press have given the impression that the Young Men's Christian Association of the city of New York or some of its branches had been holding entertainments on Sunday afteroons and evenings. Such is not and has not been the case, the association meetings on Sundays always being of a religious character, and such instrumental and vocal music as may be used is always introduced as a part of the religious service and never for mere purposes of entertainment.

WILLIAM FELLOWES MORGAN President Y. M. C. A. NEW YORK, December 10.

Socialist's Commentary on a Great Moral Classic. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your press is so much clearer printed than that of the other New York newspapers and your proofreading so much more accurate that it is more in sorrow than in anger that I call your attention to a mos

glaring error in that passage of the President's message which reads: "We have not the slightest sympathy with that Socialistic idea which would try to put laziness, thriftlessness and inefficiency on a par with industry, thrift and efficiency; which would strive to break up not merely private propbut, what is far more important, the home. the chief prop upon which our whole civilization The word "Socialistic" does not make good sense. The sons of the extremely rich are not in dustrious, thrifty or efficient, yet they are consid

erably above the par of the ordinary skilled workman. According to a recent report of the auto obile industry the average wages of those employed in manufacturing those vehicles is about 3600 a year. I should say that more than average 600 a year income for such efficiency is hardly to be compared with what a gilded and entirely in-Miclent youth would spend in a year.

At the other end of the social spectrum—the in-

mates of prisons, poorhouses and lunatic asylums are better fed, clothed and housed than many workingmen. Also, in view of the fact that practically nobody in New York owns his home, that women and children are increasingly employed outside of the rooms they sleep in, which you can hardly call "home"; that fathers and husbands and sons must stand ready to leave their families and go where they can get a job; that marriages are reer, later in life and more and more ch and in view of what we may call "the doings of the Pittsburg crowd"-all of which may be des as "breaking up the home"-should orinted: "We have no sympathy with the capitalistic dea which would put laziness, thrifties ency on a par with industry, thrift and effi-

Maybe, though, it wasn't you that made the nistake. NORTHPORT, L. I., December 10.

Starfish Has Habits. From the San Francisco Chronicle.

Prof. H. S. Jennings of Johns Hopkins Univer sity, who has been connected with the University of California in a number of experiments of several months duration at the university's marin biological laboratory at La Jollo, has discovered that no animal known is so low as the starfish. He has demonstrated that the animal is at the very bottom of animal species. The starfish is shown to have a complicated life, and many extraordinary ways of helping itself. On its back it bears about 25,000 small jaws or hands, arranged in rings and bands. These attack flercely any creature that molests the starfish; they selze and hold crabs and other creatures till they die. By their aid the star-fish captures many animals for food; even quick, active fish of considerable size are surpris these jaws, seized, held and eaten of a number of such scenes are given. No animal so low as the starfish has before been

known to form habits—to learn to do things in a certain definite way. To test whether the starfish can do this, a number of specimens were trained for a long time to right themselves in certain defin ways. By this method it was found that the starfish very readily acquires what may be called temporary habits.

BRITISH VARSITY AMATEURS.

Their Exclusiveness Explained for the Benent of Democratic America.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The article in THE SUN of December 1 entitled With the College Athletes" anent the Harvard-Cambridge boat race arouses some thoughts in one conversant with the English university circles. On one point there is great misinformation on the part of the American public in general, and even amon-American college men. It is the bester the Oxford and Cambridge men are as interested in doings outside their limited spheres as are, say, the students of Cornell or Michigan in a match between Columbia and Pennsylvanio In a word, the aristocratic sporting exclusiveness, narrowness if you will, of British

varsity circles is not understood here. So far as amateur athletics is concerned the British varsity man is very little interested in international competitions. This condition of mind is not based, as Americans are apt to think, so much on a self-satisfied belief in British superiority as in a social reluctance to compete with any one who might possibly not be a gentleman athlete in the British sense. It is not, for example, true that the foremost British rowing men, hime Lehman, Nickalls and Pitman, know and care nothing about American rowing outside Harvard and Yale, though of course they care less than they know. If the records are ex-amined it will be found that even the best British athletes have been most reluctant to compete in general contests with non-varsity men, be the amateur status of the latter ever so genuine. At times the acknowledged best men in

Great Britain in their respective branches

have, as varsity men, held aloof from the British amateur championships; in fact this has happened again and again. ner one will find that the British amateurs. mostly footballists and track athletes, with here and there a crew, who have competed abroad have almost invariably not been affiliated with the universities, at all events almost never officially. The exceptions have been, as we all know, the late British-Amerirather British-Harvard-Yale contests, and the social nature of these meetings emphasizes the exclusiveness of the British varsity men. It is not that they are ignorant f Cornell's prowess, but because, rightly or wrongly, they are convinced that in competing with Harvard and Yale they are remaining in their own social sporting set Tag Sun mentions the difficulties of the British authorities in sending adequate teams to the Olympic and other internationa! meets. The above is the solution. The varsity man is ambitious to shine in the Oxford-Cambridge contests, but he is less interested in competitions in which he may have to run against a Shrubb or a George, though he would cheerfully, and perhaps a little languidly, acknowledge their superiority.

Now, coming across the water, we find that Harvard and in a less degree Yale are actuated by some degree of this exclusiveness. Many are the scorful comments of the sporting writers on the obstinacy of Harvard and Yale in not abandoning their annual contest and competing with other college crews on the Hudson, and these gentlemen display a good deal of heat in crying aloud, so that the world, and especially Great Britain, shall hear that the best rowing in America is not found at Harvard or Yale, and that in beating the oarsmen or the athletes of those ancient institutions the British need not plume themselves upon having conquered our best. But THE SUN mentions the difficulties of the stitutions the British need not plume themselves upon having conquered our best. But the British varsity man, though he knows that (at least the leaders undoubtedly do), will nevertheless take but a feeble interest in the fact. What he does know is that Harvard and Yale are the Oxford and Cambridge of fact. What he does know is that Harvard and Yale are the Oxford and Cambridge of America by tradition; that, like themselves, Harvard and Yale go mostly their own sweet way regardless of the jibes of others, and that in competing with these two there will be no likelihood of any such contretenips as have marred certain international competitions at Henley and other places. When Oxford and Cambridge play cricket or football the seats are filled: the same is true of Harvard and Yale at football, rowing or baseball, and it will always be true, no matter whether the players are experts or duffers in comparison with Cornell or Chicago. It is a matter of social life; it is the true amateur spirit which must be intrinsically aristocratic. This standpoint, which on its face would appear to be "stuck up," not to say snobbish, is saved from being so by the important fact that British varsity men make no pretentions to be "it" or "the best ever." Neither do they interfere with other amateurs in the slightest. They simply have their traditional customs, in which they have found their sporting salvation, and elect to abide by them. They quite fail to see why they should go out of their own set for the mere privilege of proclaiming themselves champions.

There are many things about British sport difficult value, but the most important is this difference between British, amateurs and British varsity amateurs. In what degree the British have done wisely is bound to be a matter of opinion. Those who, with the writer, believe that a university career should

a matter of opinion. Those who, with the writer, believe that a university career should make for better manners, a self-contained confidence tempered with a modest demeanor in a word, the refining of the whole masculine nature—must surely, after comparing the waters. Combained ine a word, the reliming of the whole masci-line nature—must surely, after comparing the average Cambridge or Oxford under-graduate with those of almost any 'American college, find that the former, if possessing a little less go, nevertheless has a less obtru-sive manner, less swagger in fact, a softer little less go, nevertheless has a less obtrusive manner, less swagger in fact, a soiter voice—to sum up, makes a more gentlemanly appearance. I speak of the average, of course. It is a strange thing that the average British varsity man writes far better English than his American cousin, a fact impressed upon me after comparing many hundreds of essays written by young college graduates of both countries. May this not be fruit of conservatism? By better English I mean a smoother style, a surer choice of words and a greater use of idlom.

It will be noticed above that a distinction is made between the British experts and the general public in discussing the knowledge of les choses expritiques américaines; for it must be confessed that the great "B. P." is conservative to the point of extreme narrowness. The present writer was once asked by a London daily to compare English with American rugby, and the resultant exposés o enraged the editor of the London Globr, an ancient and stately sheet, that he did the author the honor to fall upon him heavily in a special editorial, in which he thus expressed himself:

If Mr. Breck considers that football is improved by the elimination of the personal equation and

If Mr. Breck considers that football is improved by the elimination of the personal equation and If Mr. Breck considers that football is improved by the elimination of the personal equation and the encouragement of brute force, we are not with him. He points triumphantly to the fact that what he calls the one scientifically weak point of the English game, namely, the method of putting the ball in play in the scrimmage, has been "improved" by America. And the improvement is that the half-back (sic) is not impeded by the other side in passing the ball out, and the forwards do not push and heel to get the ball, which is given to the side in whose possession it was when heid or caught. It is typically American to think this an improvement. The great charm of English football is to watch clever forwards heeling, and the balf-back opening up the game before his man tan get around to tackle him.

This is the apotheosis of the helterskelter, of the lack of method so characteristic of English rugby, and the editor's entire inability to see any improvement in the curtailpure chance, to paraphrase him, British. An Oxford friend in dis ment of ypically British. An Oxford rest thought-cussing this amusing controversy thought-lessly challenged me to name any real and permanent improvement in sport brought lessly challenged me to name any real and permanent improvement in sport brought about by America, and of course he was most easily overwhelmed by the mention of the following features: the "American seat" in horse racing, the sliding seat in boat racing, the rubber cored ball in golf, the "American service" in lawn tennis, the handle of the sixteen pound "hammer," the crouching start in sprinting, and a host of other improvements which will occur to any athlete, all of which have been unreservedly adopted by the British. In fact it is by no means in the implements of sport that our cousins have been and still are conservative, but only in the spirit, and in that they are right.

Annapolis Royal, N. S., December 7.

Setting Kentucky Women an Example.

From the Kentucky State Journal.

To encourage enterprise and set the fair sex of Belle Point a worthy example, a number of women, headed by Mrs. Nancy Johnson, aged 73 years, went to the new brick building being erected by S. W. Howell and laid brick and carried the hod for half an hour

The purpose of this novel example was to show the young wamen in that section of the city that it does not bring dishonor to women even if they do manual labor, and that they should not be ashamed to work if they are called upon to do it. The ea-teemed old lady who headed the procession of women to handle the trowel and shoulder the ntois the venerable mother of Policeman Richard Johnson. She is a typical combination of a lad of the old and new school. An excellent he heeper, Mrs. Johnson would be glad to show any of the young matrons in her section of the city low to keep house, but she also desired to short them that it should not be beneath were called on to go out into the world to make in honorable living.

A Horse on the Greeks The Greeks were entering Troy in the wooden

"And yet," they confessed, "we couldn't atand sevelt test for riding a live one." Thus is seen the superiority of brawn over brain.